



FALL 2010

# The Iota Iota Messenger

SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA | EST. 1876

## House Corporation Agenda Moves Forward Thanks to Chapter Successes



*Iota Iota received a Peterson Significant Chapter Award. From the left, Alabama Grand Praetor Ken Kvalheim, Eta Epsilon '81, Consul David Beasley '11, Grand Consul Wayne Tucker, Eta Omega '85, Pro Consul Justin Cowart '12, and Magister Nick Leslie '12.*

As the fall semester is well underway, I am happy to report the Iota Iota Chapter is doing well. This summer the chapter won their second consecutive Peterson Outstanding Chapter Award, an accomplishment that has not occurred at Iota Iota since the '70s. Iota Iota also received our second Outstanding House Corporation Award – a testament to the dedicated alumni that consistently help mentor and give back to our chapter.

This fall brought welcome changes to our house as well. We have a new housemother, Mrs. Donnie Shavers, who comes to us from the Delta Delta Delta sorority. She is an experienced Greek house director and I know the men will appreciate having her around to ensure operations run smoothly. I know everyone will make her feel welcome. We have also repainted the front of the house and purchased new furniture for the foyer and formal room. If you find yourself in

Tuscaloosa, please make an effort to stop by the chapter house and see these recent improvements.

The constant maintenance on our 40-year-old-plus chapter house is an ever-present reminder of our need for a new facility. Many of you have decided to give back by contributing financially to the House Corporation over the past few years, but have requested a tax deductible option of donating to Iota Iota. The University of Alabama has allowed us to set this up. You will hear more about this in our annual solicitation letter.

Thanks to **Mark McColl '81** and former 1981 chapter sweetheart, Jerri Jordan, for organizing the alumni dinner event. We had approximately 80 alumni attended the dinner and it was quite a success. I'd also like to thank a few dedicated alumni for the constant help they provide to keep our chapter one of the strongest on campus. Sigma Chi is a college fraternity, but it is also a lifelong brotherhood. I feel Iota Iota is my strongest connection to the University of Alabama. As Iota Iota grows, it will require more alumni to actually volunteer their time to work with our undergraduate brothers. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or would like to inquire how we could use your help. It is never too late to give back to Iota Iota. Please remember to stop by the chapter house to see your dollars at work.

In Hoc,  
**Ralph Procter '81**  
Iota Iota House Corporation President  
(205) 823-4414  
procter1@charter.net

## IOTA IOTA HONORED WITH SECOND CONSECUTIVE PETERSON AWARD

### Derby Days Success and Award Recognition—Highlights of Spring and Summer

We are excited about the fall semester after our success in the spring and summer.

#### Successful Recruitment Nets 43 Members

Recruitment Chairman **Justin Wampol '12** planned some great events this summer to keep our brothers connected and to welcome the incoming freshmen. Through these recruitment events, we assembled a pledge class of 43 outstanding young men. We look forward to getting to know these potential new members over

the course of the semester. If you have recruitment recommendations for 2011, please e-mail their contact information to me.

#### Brothers Surpass Previous Derby Days Record

This spring, our brothers worked together with the sororities to hold another successful Derby Days. Through the hard work of our brothers and generous donations from our alumni and the Tuscaloosa community, we raised over \$30,000 for charity. In a

*(Continued on page 2)*

## IOTA IOTA HONORED

(Continued from page 1)

unanimous vote, our brothers chose to split the \$30,000 donation between Children's Hospital of Alabama and Birmingham Chapter of Catholic Relief Services. Our donations are the highest among all Greek organizations in the SEC. Since 2001, Iota Iota has given \$138,000 to charity.

### Members Take Pride in Second Consecutive Peterson Award

In July, our officers traveled to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the Balfour Leadership Training Workshop. For the ninth time in history and the second year in a row, our chapter was awarded the Peterson Significant Chapter Award. Of the 233 chapters that applied, Iota Iota was one of only 38 honored with this recognition. Our brothers are proud that our hard work and success here at the University of Alabama is recognized not only by our alumni but also by the International Fraternity.

### Continued Commitment to Community Service

Over the past few years, our brothers have dedicated themselves to volunteer work in the Tuscaloosa community. This fall, we look forward to once again renewing our commitment to community service. Many of the actives have become involved with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program of West Alabama. In addition, all our brothers and potential new members will spend time this semester volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club of Tuscaloosa.

I extend an invitation to all alumni who attend games this fall to stop by the house for lunch or breakfast depending on the time of kickoff. Also, if you find yourself in Tuscaloosa at any time, please feel free to stop by for lunch, dinner, or chapter meetings on Wednesday nights. You are always welcome at your Fraternity.



In Hoc,  
**David R. Beasley '11**  
Consul  
drbeasley@crimson.ua.edu



Derby Days 2010 had over 2,000 sorority members participate. Thanks to our generous alumni who helped us raise \$30,000 for charity.

## A Note From Iota Iota's International Sweetheart



Brothers of Sigma Chi,

As International Sweetheart, I have been fortunate to spend the past year meeting Sigma Chis from across the country. I am humbled by the warm reception I have received and never imagined when I was selected as International Sweetheart that I would instantly gain thousands of new friends. I will certainly never forget being sung to by nearly 1,800 Sigma Chis at this year's Leadership Training Workshop. Of course, I am forever grateful to the Iota Iota Chapter for making all of this possible, and ultimately I just hope to make you all proud. I look forward to meeting more Iota Iota alumni over the coming school year. Roll Tide!

ever grateful to the Iota Iota Chapter for making all of this possible, and ultimately I just hope to make you all proud. I look forward to meeting more Iota Iota alumni over the coming school year. Roll Tide!

**Alexa Stabler, Phi Mu '09**

*Editor's Note: Alexa is the daughter of Alabama football legend Kenny Stabler and served as the Iota Iota Sweetheart from 2008-09. At the 77th Grand Chapter, Alexa became Iota Iota's fifth International Sweetheart, the most of any chapter in Sigma Chi history. She is a second-year law student at the University of Alabama School of Law.*

## Quentin Brown '69 Considers the Value of Iota Iota

Looking back on his time at Iota Iota, **Quentin Brown '69** says that "Sigma Chi was a good training ground for all of us and got me started in the world." Although he says that "peer pressure" was the reason he pledged, his time spent with his pledge brothers are his favorite memories from his days at the Capstone.



His advice to current undergraduate brothers is to "work on your relationship with your brothers and network, network, network." He also says that maintaining personal integrity is important because your "credibility is crucial."

After earning his degree, Quentin went to Cumberland Law and was elected as a District Judge in Jefferson County in 1982. After retiring from the bench in 2001, he now has a successful mediation practice in Birmingham.

Quentin and his wife Julie reside in Birmingham and have two children, Beau and Jill. As co-chairman of the House Corporation's fundraising committee, Quentin encourages alumni to give as much as they can now that a tax deductible account has been established with UA. To contact Quentin, e-mail qb@brownmediations.com.

## BROTHER MARK ASCIK '79

### LEARNED LIFE LESSONS FROM SIGMA CHI

From his first visit to Sigma Chi, **Mark Ascik '79** was impressed with the quality of men in Sigma Chi. The Fraternity allowed him to develop leadership skills and learn how to motivate young men with different temperaments, talents, and convictions. He held positions as recruitment chairman, magister, Derby Days chairman, and attended the annual Leadership Training Workshop.

Mark recalls many fond memories as an undergraduate. "Of course, I loved the football games, the two national championships, singing to the sweetheart of Sigma Chi, and Derby Days. But my most fond memories are of the work projects we had as pledges. We would take great pride in our work done on the house. Getting to know our pledge brothers helped to develop strong friendships that have lasted a lifetime."

In 1979, Mark graduated with a bachelor of science in marketing. He is the president of StyleMark Inc., the world's leading designer and manufacturer of moderately priced eyewear. Iota Iota Brothers **Donald Grindle '78** and **Stephen Ascik '83** also work with Mark. They have over 700 employees around the world and sell 70 million eyeglasses in 69 different countries.

"If you are the leader, people expect you to be trustworthy. If you break that trust then you lose the ability to lead them. You have to lead by example, have a clear plan, be accessible and optimistic, show your appreciation and celebrate even small victories. I lead by example and would never ask someone to do something that I wouldn't do. People work with me not for me."

Mark encourages undergraduates to get involved with the Fraternity. "Be proud of it, work for it, and the more you give the

more you will get. Take care of the house; it doesn't belong only to you. It belongs to all of us who came before you and those who will follow you. Get involved with recruitment; it is the lifeblood of our chapter. Lastly, find a career that you love—and you'll never 'work' a day in your life. Pay attention to the ideals of Sigma Chi; they will help you for the rest of your life."

Mark will always give Sigma Chi credit for helping him develop into a better person. He still maintains contact with many brothers and takes great pride in being a Sigma Chi. "To all alumni—the current brothers of Iota Iota are fine young men of whom we can all be proud. They're doing a great job of maintaining the house; however, at some point it will need restoration and the only way they can do that is with our financial support. When that time comes, please remember, to a degree, how much of our success comes from the ideals of Sigma Chi, which we gained during our years at Iota Iota."

For the past 28 years, Mark has lived in Ormond Beach, Florida. He says, "I've had to listen to and endure Gator fans. Roll Tide!" He and his wife, Missy, have two sons, Mark, a Beta at Auburn, and **David '12**, a Sigma Chi at Alabama, and a daughter, Caroline, an Alpha Chi Omega at Alabama. To contact Mark, e-mail him at [mascik@stylemark.net](mailto:mascik@stylemark.net).



## *W. Bryant Patrick '06 Stresses the Importance of Leadership*

It was a foregone conclusion that **W. Bryant Patrick '06** would join a fraternity during his time at Alabama. During summer recruitment, **Jake Bradford '05** and **Spencer Akin '05** were great hosts on all of Bryant's visits to Sigma Chi. "I was looking for a house with down-to-earth, friendly, and fun people, not an organization that focused strictly on social status or where you came from. Sigma Chi fit the bill almost perfectly."

His undergraduate experience was an amazing learning experience, both academically and socially. He says to current undergraduates, "Enjoy your time as an undergraduate. Those were the best four years of my life. Be progressive and stay on the forefront of change while striving to honor the traditions before you. Change is generally a positive thing and Sigma Chi members should strive to be leaders of the Greek system."



Bryant says that his favorite time at Iota Iota centered around the social events, but his least favorite memory was when **John Armayor '06** called him "the ugliest guy in the pledge class." Bryant served as consul in 2005. Prior to that, he served as social chairman, scholarship chairman, and pledge chairman. "I don't think the importance of leadership can be stressed enough, even as an undergraduate. Positions of leadership during college prepare you for managerial roles and difficult situations you will inevitably face in your career and life. I learned an immense amount as consul that helped me a great deal."

Bryant graduated with a bachelor of science in quantitative finance with a minor in economics. He worked as an investment banking analyst for three years at Raymond James Energy Investment Banking. He is in his second year at Harvard Business School and lives in Boston, Massachusetts. To contact Bryant, e-mail him at [wpatrick@mba2011.hbs.edu](mailto:wpatrick@mba2011.hbs.edu).

WEB SITES

[www.bamasig.org](http://www.bamasig.org)

Facebook Group,  
Search: "Alabama Sigma Chi"

# Thank You, Loyal Alumni

Thank you to our loyal alumni who have contributed \$25,696 with 235 total gifts, averaging \$109 per gift since the fall of 2008. The support you give makes a difference to our chapter and its future. Our undergraduate brothers greatly appreciate your generosity.

Iota Iota at the University of Alabama is becoming even stronger with your loyalty. We hope more alumni will join their brothers and contribute to our ongoing annual campaign.

Contributors are listed below in graduation order. If an error has been made in recording the amount of your gift, please contact the House Corporation at [bamasig@gmail.com](mailto:bamasig@gmail.com) or write to Iota Iota House Corporation, P.O. Box 1880, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403. Thank you for your support!

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# The Iota Iota Messenger

## Iota Iota Chapter of Sigma Chi

P.O. Box 1880  
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